

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00760 101407 Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OPR-02 INRE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 RSR-01 /106 W
----- 027484

P R 101011 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3762

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 760

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB IN

SUBJ: THREATENED PORT STRIKE NOT LIKELY TO OCCUR

1. LOCAL LABOR CIRCLES PREDICT NATIONWIDE STRIKE OF PORT AND DOCK WORKERS ANNOUNCED APRIL 4 BY PRES ALL- INDIA PORT AND DOCK WORKERS' FEDERATION S. R. KULKARNI AND SCHEDULED BEGIN MIDNIGHT APRIL 10 PROBABLY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE PLACE AT THIS TIME. FAIRLY STRONG BELIEF LABOR CIRCLES THAT GOI

WOULD ONE WAY OR ANOTHER PREVENT STRIKE WAS STRENGTHENED BY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT KULKARNI AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS HAD BEEN " INVITED" TO DELHI FOR TALKS BY MINISTER SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND LEFT BOMBAY MORNING APRIL 9.

2. KULKARNI APPARENTLY THREATENED CALL OUT PORT AND DOCK WORKERS IN EFFORT BRING PRESSURE ON GOI ON RELATED ISSUES OF CONSOLIDATION OF WAGE STRUCTURE, COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES, HOUSING ALLOWANCES, ETC. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN DRAGGING ON FOR SOME TIME, AND KULKARNI UNDERSTANDABLY IS ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS SATISFACTORILY. KULKARNI MIGHT WELL
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HAVE FELT THAT FACT INDIA IS PRESENTLY IMPORTING BADLY NEEDED FOODSTUFFS WOULD MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO UNION DEMANDS AND MAKE A SETTLEMENT MORE LIKELY.

3. ON BASIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH BOMBAY LABOR LEADERS, WE INCLINED AGREE STRIKE WILL NOT BEGIN AS SCHEDULED. WE WILL ATTEMPT SEE KULKARNI WHEN HE RETURNS TO BOMBAY, WHEN WE WILL HOPEFULLY LEARN WHAT TRANSPIRED IN DELHI.
BANE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: CALCUTTA
MADRAS
NEA
NEW DELHI
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
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